



PATIENT AND PARTNER ILLNESS APPRAISAL IN TYPE 1 DIABETES: OBSERVED AND PERCEIVED BEHAVIORS IN A DIABETES-RELATED DISCUSSION TASK

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Objective: To examine how illness appraisals among individuals with type 1 diabetes and their partners and discrepancies in appraisals are associated with observed and perceived negative interactions in a diabetes-related discussion task.

Methods: 199 individuals with type 1 diabetes and their romantic partners individually categorized their illness appraisal as the patient's, mostly the patients, or shared between patient and partner and then engaged in a discussion task on a diabetes-related topic of conflict. Researchers coded negative behaviors of the person with diabetes and their partner. After the discussion, participants reported on emotional and instrumental support that they provided and received during the discussion. Hierarchical regressions examined if appraisal discrepancies were associated with negative interactions and perceptions of those interactions above and beyond patient illness appraisals.

Results: Greater patient shared appraisal was significantly positively associated with observed partner negativity. It was also significantly positively associated with greater patient and partner reports of both provided and received emotional and instrumental support. More discrepancies in appraisal were significantly correlated with greater observed partner negativity and more patient report of instrumental support provided to partner.

Conclusions: Possible differences between the observational and self-report data may be due to positive sentiment override in the self-report data, as well as outside observers being unfamiliar with the couple's dyadic interaction patterns, viewing them more negatively as an outside observer. Further exploration of these differences in measures of appraisal and behavior should be conducted to inform illness appraisal and couple-based healthcare interventions for diabetes.